



vallée  
de mai

UNESCO World Heritage



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## The Vallée de Mai's 40th UNESCO inscription anniversary celebration research symposium

*Programme - Thursday 2nd November 2023*

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### ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION - 9:00 AM

#### OPENING - 10:00 AM

10:00 AM

**Welcome**

*Master of Ceremony - Corianna Julie, SIF*

10:05 AM

**The beauty of the Vallée de Mai**

*Poem by Yves Jumaye*

10:10 AM

**Opening of the Research Symposium**

*Patron of SIF and President of the Republic of Seychelles - Wavel Ramkalawan*

10:25 AM

**Video screening of Vallée de Mai over the past 40 years and SIF Team**

10:35 AM

**The Vallée de Mai: a relic of Gondwana and living laboratory for scientific research**

*Dr Annabelle Constance*

10:55 AM

**Question & Answer Session**

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### PHOTO BREAK - 11:00 AM

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## SESSION 1: CONSERVATION OF COCO DE MER - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 11:20 AM** | **Keynote: The life story of the coco de mer**  
*Professor Peter Edwards*
- 11:35 AM** | **How many coco de mers are there on Praslin? : Survey challenges and findings**  
*Joshua Maria*
- 11:45 AM** | **Using genetic analysis to unravel the ancient mysteries of the coco de mer**  
*Dr Emma Morgan*
- 11:55 PM** | **Question & Answer Session**

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**LUNCH BREAK - 12:10 PM**

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## SESSION 2: EXPLORING THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE VALLÉE DE MAI AND PRASLIN'S PALM FOREST

- 13:10 PM** | **Keynote: Praslin's palm forest ecosystem – an ecological treasure**  
*Dr Nancy Bunbury*
- 13:25 PM** | **Seychelles black parrot research: insights into this unique species**  
*Monica Griffith & Terance Payet*
- 13:35 PM** | **Long-lost chameleon rediscovered in Seychelles**  
*Maria Monthy*
- 13:45 PM** | **New frogs from an old world: the story of the Praslin Sooglossus**  
*Dr Jim Labisko*
- 13:55 PM** | **Question & Answer Session**

## TEA BREAK - 14:10 PM

### SESSION 3: BRIDGING THE KNOWLEDGE-IMPLEMENTATION SPACE

- 14:25 PM | **Keynote: Implications of research for policy, tourism and education**  
*Dr Frauke Fleischer-Dogley*
- 14:40 PM | **Big and invasive trees: Management practices from Vallée de Mai**  
*Shanone Hibonne*
- 14:50 PM | **Four years of yellow crazy ant control to protect the Vallée de Mai - where are we now and what have we learnt**  
*Lorraine Cook*
- 15:00 PM | **Question & Answer Session**

### CLOSING

- 15:15 PM | **Concluding remarks and thanks**  
*Chairman of the SIF Board - Hon Bernard Georges*

### EXHIBITION VIEWING AND TEA BREAK



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past & inspiring  
our future

since 1983

Thank you for attending the 40th UNESCO anniversary celebration research symposium